

tains in New York, although Dr. Warren says it "breeds occasionally, it is said, in our higher mountainous regions."

Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii. HERMIT THRUSH.—Among some scattered pines at the top of Wopsononock Mountain I found a pair feeding their young. As the abundance of this species can best be determined about sunset, when every male is pouring forth its evening song (and the same remark applies to *T. u. swainsonii*), I cannot say how abundant it is at this point. It was not encountered at Cresson, but in the deep woods of North Mountain it found a congenial home and was very numerous. Often it was possible to distinguish a dozen singing at the same time in the early morning or late evening hours. There was an overhanging cliff commanding a deep, narrow valley, whence at sunset even a greater number might be heard, their notes blending with those of the Olive-backed and Wood Thrushes. I have listened to the songs of all these birds many times, but never before have I heard all these species singing at the same time and had such opportunities for comparing their notes. I am satisfied that the song of the Hermit Thrush is more beautiful than that of the much-renowned Wood Thrush. There is a liquid, ringing sweetness about it, that is only matched in part by the song of the latter. The notes of the Olive-backed Thrush are inferior to both, although delivered with more swing and emphasis than either. The Hermit Thrush is one of the characteristic Canadian birds found in this region. Baird did not meet with it in summer. Dr. Warren says: "This species, it is stated, breeds sparingly in some of our higher mountainous districts."

Merula migratoria. AMERICAN ROBIN.—Abundant everywhere except in the deep woods.

Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Tolerably common and met with in the clearings on the top of North Mountain.



A DESCRIPTION OF THE ADULT MALE OF *BOTAURUS NEOXENUS* (CORY), WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE SPECIES.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

CAPTAIN J. F. MENGE of Fort Myers, Florida, procured for me during the summer of 1891 three specimens of Cory's Bittern (*Botaurus neoxenus*), and as one of these has the sex deter-

mined, much additional light is thrown on this little known form. Captain Menge saw, besides the specimens he procured for me, some eight individuals, one pair of which were breeding and had young and have already been referred to in this journal, Vol. VIII, p. 309. The male about to be described is not the dark bird of this pair, neither of which was taken by Captain Menge, but he tells me that in coloration one of the birds of the pair was identical with it, and that he has seen others of similar color. The other bird of this pair was in color like the type of *B. neoxenus*. In view of the new material and of the foregoing information, I believe that the four individuals heretofore collected are probably all females. Appended is the description of the three additional individuals, making a total of seven birds so far known of this species.

Adult male, No. 11,449, collection of W. E. D. Scott, taken three miles south of Lake Okeechobee and thirty miles east of Ft. Thompson, Florida, June 28, 1891, by Capt. J. F. Menge. General appearance throughout, both above and beneath, dark greenish black. The feathers of the lower neck alone having traces (edgings) of dark chestnut, their centres being of the greenish black tone prevailing throughout the bird. The belly is greenish black with no traces of chestnut, and the axillary feathers are greenish black. The central feathers of the belly near the vent, two or three in number, are pure white. The feathering of the legs is blackish chestnut, and on the right leg there are a number of cream-colored or whitish feathers.

No. 11,450, collection of W. E. D. Scott, taken at Lake Flirt, Florida, Aug. 15, 1891, by Capt. J. F. Menge, is a young bird of the year, and is like Mr. Cory's original specimen save that the entire belly is still covered with white feathers of a downy character and that the first primary of the right wing is pure white throughout; one of the axillaries of the left wing also is pure white. The legs where they are feathered are smoky brown in color behind, and pure white in front.

No. 11,451, collection of W. E. D. Scott, taken at Lake Flirt, Florida, July 15, 1891, by Capt. J. F. Menge (believed by Capt. Menge to be a female) is very like Mr. Cory's original bird save that there are traces on the sides of the back of lines, much obscured, but of a general brownish tint, thus approaching *Botaurus exilis*.

In view of the small amount of material so far extant it may be premature to hazard an opinion regarding this bird, but I feel impelled to record the strong impression that I entertain, that it will ultimately be found to be a color phase of *Botaurus exilis*.